AP English Language and Composition 2026-2027– TGS

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Course Description:

"The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze
rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text— from a range of disciplines and historical periods" (College Board 2020).

Course Objectives:

"An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations" (College Board 2020).

AP English Language and Composition is a rigorous college-level course. The texts will challenge you and frequent writing will require you to think critically. We will function as a community of learners to navigate this journey together. The summer work will give you a head start that will impact the work we are able to complete during the year and your potential success on the AP Language and Composition exam.

Texts and Materials:

- A copy of Jay Heinrich's *Thank You For Arguing*, 4th Edition (I STRONGLY recommend you purchase and write/flag passages in your text ($20 or less on average). However, if you so need, you may borrow one from the TGS Library and use sticky notes for any notations you make while reading.
- A copy of John Green's *Anthropocene Reviewed* (I STRONGLY recommend you purchase this new and write in your text ($20 or less on average). However, if you so need, you may borrow one from the TGS Library and use sticky notes for any notations you make while reading. Note: Though you will not use this for summer reading, this text will be utilized intermittently throughout the year.
- A three-ring **1.5-2" binder** with *at least five* sturdy pockets/sections and *plenty* of white lined paper (college lined). This will be for AP Lang *only*. Organize your binder in the following sections: (1) Multiple Choice (2) Rhetorical Analysis (3) Argument (4) Rhetorical Synthesis (5) Grammar and General Notes.
- Sharp number 2 pencils
- Black or blue pens (for all writing)
- At least one colored pen- for editing and revisions
- Sticky notes
- Index cards (for your summer work)
- Highlighters (at least three colors)

Course Expectations:

- Self-advocate. *You* are taking this course, and therefore *you* should advocate for *yourself*, meaning asking questions, seeking clarity, talking to me about your grade, communicating your absences with me, etc. Take an active part in your own learning!
- Share your voice. I expect you to participate daily in our discussions.
- Effectively manage your time. This is a college-level course, so be prepared for college-level expectations regarding submission of work on time, participation, etc.
- Read critically while challenging your individualized skill level.
- Write (creative, reflective, expository) often.
- Take comprehensive notes.
- Again, since this is a college-level course, you need to treat it that way. Meet your deadlines, communicate with your teacher, ask questions and for extra help when needed.

SUMMER WORK

Please join the AP Lang Google Classroom with the code **3o4mlpln.** You will also receive an invite to join the Classroom page. Access each task through the hyperlink provided.

1. **AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION 101**: Read the overview. In this section you will find a test overview, annotation overview, note-taking styles, and information on SPACE CAT and other memory tools we will use throughout the year.

   Please keep this information and **use it while completing the other sections of your summer work**. You will need all the information in this packet during next school year, so keep it handy and bring it with you on the first day of class, along with a three-ring binder.

2. **ESSENTIAL AP LANG TERMS**: This section contains terms you must learn for next year. The process is simple-- **make flash cards that include definitions and ideally, examples or memory tricks,** study them, **turn them in for review**, and **take a test on the words when you return to school in the fall**. This material that you will create is a major key to success on the multiple choice section of your exam and beyond. You will ultimately keep the flash cards in your binder. Please note that you must create your *own* note cards by hand; you will not earn credit for simply turning in or printing off the review sheet provided. Note that research shows that the more times you write something, the better you remember it! **Handwriting your note cards is required.** This is a quiz grade.
   a. Note: You need to truly LEARN these terms and not just memorize them for a single test. We will use them ALL YEAR. You will have a TEST on these terms within the first week of school and then periodically throughout the year. You are REQUIRED to score an 85% accuracy or above on the first test.

3. **NON-FICTION TEXT READING** Read Jay Heinrich's *Thank You For Arguing*, 4th Edition the Preface and chapters 1-14 (pages XV-159). I encourage you to chunk out your reading rather than do it all at once. Annotations are encouraged but not required. See the attachment for the journal assignments that *are* required. This reading will provide a strong foundation to our course. At the root, you will be writing argumentatively and persuasively in different ways. You will need this information in the fall and throughout the upcoming year as you write essays, practice with some multiple choice, and participate in discussions about your book when we return. **Due to Google Classroom by August 14, 2026.**

4. **KNOWLEDGE BUILDING** Your argument essay requires you to pull on personal experiences and connections to current events, media, texts, and more. To start preparing for this, please complete the knowledge building task. You must include a select from each of the categories. Note that some require listening/watching more than one episode. As you read/listen/watch you'll be jotting down specific notes related to the information, how it is delivered, and the audience it is geared towards. Be thoughtful.

All summer work is due on the first day of class, unless otherwise noted! Your grade will be significantly impacted for quarter one if you do *not* complete the work on time.